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To: Examiner Alan Waits

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From: Cameron W. Beddard, Reg. No. 46,545 **Phone:** 202-508-8734
Our Ref: 095309.56366US
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/539,594

Further to my voice message, attached are proposed claim amendments for your consideration prior to conducting a telephone interview, which I would like to schedule for later this week.

Thank You

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Amendments to the Claims:

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A steering column arrangement comprising:

a steering spindle which is mounted in a casing tube so as to be rotationally movable, the casing tube encasing the steering spindle along substantially all of the length of the steering spindle; and

a switch module which is held immovably with respect to the rotational movement of the steering spindle and is fixed radially and axially on the casing tube; wherein,

the switch module is supported on a bearing arranged on the steering spindle;

the switch module comprises a centering device which, under a force which is oriented coaxially with respect to the longitudinal axis of the steering spindle, fixes the switch module on the casing tube and clamps the switch module radially,

the centering device comprises a stator and clamping jaws; and

an elevation protrudes toward the casing tube in a substantially radial direction from a central portion of a first face of a first clamping jaw that faces the casing tube, the elevation contacting an outermost surface of the casing tube and centering the switch module.

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12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the stator is connected to the bearing.

14. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 13, wherein the stator is connected to each clamping jaw via a spring element.

15. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the stator is connected to each clamping jaw via a spring element.

16. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein each clamping jaw is in contact with the casing tube by way of a support.

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17. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein a second face of the first clamping jaw faces the stator and extends obliquely with regard to the longitudinal axis of the steering spindle.

18. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 17, wherein the inner face of the stator extends parallel to the oblique face of the clamping jaw.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the axial force ~~can be~~ is applied by means of a steering wheel bolt.

22. (Currently Amended) A steering column arrangement, comprising:

a steering spindle which is mounted in a casing tube so as to be rotationally movable; and

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a switch module which is held immovably with respect to the rotational movement of the steering spindle and is fixed radially and axially on the casing tube; wherein,

the switch module is supported on a bearing arranged on the steering spindle;

the switch module comprises a centering device which, under a force which is oriented coaxially with respect to the longitudinal axis of the steering spindle, fixes the switch module on the casing tube and clamps it radially,

the centering device comprises a stator and clamping jaws; and

a leaf spring, which is separate from the casing tube, engages in a cut-out of the casing tube and is ~~provided~~ fastened in ~~an opening~~ a recess in an inner wall of [[in]] the stator~~, and the leaf spring spans the opening~~,

wherein the cut-out provides an opening in the casing tube through which the leaf spring protrudes radially toward the steering spindle.

23. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 22, wherein each clamping jaw is in contact with the casing tube by way of a support.

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24. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 22, wherein a first face of a first clamping jaw faces the stator and extends obliquely with regard to the longitudinal axis of the steering spindle.

25. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 24, wherein the inner face of the stator extends parallel to the oblique face of the clamping jaw.

26. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 25, wherein an elevation protrudes from a second face of the first clamping jaw which faces the casing tube.

27. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 22, wherein the axial force is applied by means of a steering wheel bolt.

28. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a control pin fastened to an outer side of the leaf spring.

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29. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 28, wherein the control pin projects through the switch module to a trim panel of the steering column arrangement.

30. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first face of the clamping jaw is spaced apart from the outermost surface of the casing tube based upon an amount of protrusion of the elevation from the first face of the first clamping jaw.

31. (Previously Presented) The steering column arrangement as claimed in claim 22, wherein a center region of the leaf spring has a concave configuration.